Jim, More on Policoff/Post and BF 9/18/75

On the separate envelope I've indicated a desire that you not open this until after the appeal is filed because part of it may irritate you and because there ought be no diversion of your time into the unessential.

When you phoned as we were leaving because I wanted Bud to get the Livingston letter today I asked you if you had heard from Bud. You had not. I had spoken to him about getting the retyping started. He had agreed that you were overloaded and gave me to understand there might have been a few suggestions from him if he had not felt you did not have the time. I told him I felt a few I'd made might be helpful. We both agreed that what you had done is good and he actually said he had people sitting around in his office with free time in which they could do typing. He did promise to phone you. I said it would not take long for you to incorporate those suggestions you want to pick up. Or, more of this endless doubledealing, one version to me to make him look like a good guy and cooperative and fuck you, you don't even hear from him. And I do feel strongly that even the retyping of 40 some pages would be not only that much more toward completion but that much psychological pressure taken off of you.

Let me explain the SatEvePost-Jerry situation a different way. Both have problems as they relate to me. I can't be sure of what the Post's are but in part they have to come from what people like Jerry and Lane and O'Toole tell them. In part it may be from their files of the past, their failures then and need of me. In part it may be because few publications are going to handle anything really tough on this and then say that what they've printed is largely nonsense, that most of the original work was done by one man.

Jerry can't get over whatever emotional think it was that caused him to handle the Washington Post and me so dishonestly in his initial piece on the press. He had from my files proof that would have stacked in court of the accuracy of my representation and from Geoffrey Wolff confirmation in his own way. Bradlee's order was no review. Once Jerry would not be honest he developed a hangup neither he not I can do anything about.

But he also has the compulsion for cheap fame.

He knows very well that there is no medical evidence of any consequence that is not my work. He knows specifically about Cyril learning nothing or next to it and then saying all the crazy things he has. He knows that I prepared Cyril's 1969 testimony because Cyril didn't understand the panels' reports. He knows that I had all of that written before Cyril testified. He knows that I had all of the first three parts of Post Mortem written and published in a limited edition prior to Cyril's seeing anything and that I had the third part done except for what I added on Lattimer later. He knows from both Howard and me what we talked about when Fred Graham called me because Howard was here. In short, he knows that for all practical purposes all the medical work is mine.

Whether or not he knows, and I think he does, the SatEvePost phoned me right after the NYU meeting, when I was not yet well. Two people. I offered them the ancillary rights to all of this. They professed excitement and said they'd be back. Why do you suppose the editor took the time May 2 to write me so nice a letter?

The decision I made before the NYU meeting was the correct one. It was wrong for me to let Howard take all of what I had on that in the fourth part of PM out but I did. We have to confront these self-promoters and ripoff artists. Howard was afraid it would make me look bad but I don't really care about that because there is something more important and that is the harm these people have done and are doing. They have to be exposed. There isn't one of them who care about anything more than in some way he cares about his self-interest in this. It drives them to dirty things. Some cross over into the unethical. With Cyril, any time I want to do something- and I don't- I have more than enough. He read the first two parts of PM and even studied some of the pictures and without my permission made copies and send me some when I had them.

They don't want to change and we can't change them.

You ought to remember enough. You have the closer experience with Bud, Bob and Cyril, among others. Then remember the flap about Cyril going in to see the stuff and that whole affair? The only one of the 100% opposition who had the inner decency and self respect to speak honestly was Howard. The rest were bitter-enders. Sylvia and Jerry took the view that the Kennedys had it coming to them anyway. Sylvia wrote me this.

None of them can face anything, none is capable of changing, and all we can do is waste time trying. I can't think of anything Jerry has done or can do that is worth the time he has wasted alone. It has made no difference and may have been counter-productive. It really says nothing new. It represents another kind of minor-press copout.

What difference does it really make which of the ignoramuses writes a medical-evidence story for the SEPost? They can't do it without transgressing against my rights. I may not be able to do anything about it, may not even try, but if there is no real difference, and there isn't, why not let these people who have the money and can pay for the damage they do put me in a position to collect if it is possible?

None of them really want to help me, including Jerry. This is the way he quiets his conscience. I can't think of even a single simple research job he would do for me in NYC. I had to use a highschool dropout for library chores there. Sylvia? She never once ever proposed me for any single show, never once referred any reporter to me, and refused all specific requests I made, like when I asked her to edit PM II before the final retyping.

They are all in various ways at least jealous and they have trouble cohabitating with their emotions. But they have a clear and undeviating record of not changing.

Now what I don't want you to tell Jerry is that no matter what the SEPost does on the medical evidence it can't be out before PM and the ancillary use of it. They'll get badly splattered. Let him and let them. Ask yourself what there is in the medical evidence that is credible that he can honestly attribute to the writing of another? (Lane, by the way, did not do his own and the woman who did it for him didn't understand it and wrote me for help. I have a file if you want to see it. I think her name is Ruth Fortel.) Or if anyone else dug anything of any consequence out of the Archives before I did or in addition to what I did. So what is this business of he can credit my work and sell me a couple of books? What does it mean except that he is telling himself he is not really a bastard, neither?

He knows the only honest thing was to tell the Post the work was all mine and that they should a) ask me to do the piece or b) run the risk of being sued if they used my work without permission. But he wouldn't even let himself think of that.

He was the same way on the proposed Pelin piece for New Times. For all Howard did that was so good and all Sylvia did, they both missed the most significant and both failed to put it together as they could and should have. So what was there that kept Jerry from saying I was the first who had done this and why didn't the New Times get in touch with me?

The sad part is that he believes all the nonsense into which he has talked himself. He has made himself part of Lane's dirtyworking self-promotion that at its best will deceive more young mind that do not have to be told the official story is a lie. Jerry craves the attention he hasn't been able to get any other way and he can't control. So, my advice is just to let them all alone and not waste time and emotions on what we can't do anything about. We are better off being hurt with the prospect of being able to do something about it than with this kind of "help."

I am not anxious to sell the early books now because I'll run out and can't reprint now and because we have to complete Post Mortem and can't do everything. What comes first? For me getting the stuff printed.

And the hotter the subject gets the more of this there will be. People have been ripping me off for a decade. I can stand a little more. Hastily,